


Requirements for Prescribed Grazing Incentive

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) 2008

Producer requirements for obtaining incentive payments for Prescribed Grazing:

1. **Eligible lands:** Pasture and other land that is used for both pasture and hay, not land just used for hay production. Pasture Condition Score before application of the system must be less than 35 points. Not eligible for additional cost share for Pasture and Hay Planting or incentive for Nutrient Management on the same acres.

Maximum Acres: 100 acres per year for 3 years maximum payment. Life of the practice is 5 years.

2. **Soil test required** (University of Tennessee Lab and A and L Labs using UT testing procedures and recommendations only). Areas of contrasting soils, problem spots or portions of fields where yields are significantly different should be sampled separately, provided the area can be fertilized separately. Examples: bottomland and upland. See University of Tennessee publication PB 1061 ( [UT PB1061](#)) for soil sampling information.
3. **Develop a conservation plan with a grazing component** for the land with NRCS assistance. (May need to over-seed with legumes and/or grasses as needed in order to maintain the desired stand.)
4. **Apply lime** as required by soil test (University of Tennessee soil test recommendation).
5. **Apply fertilizer** annually by soil test maintenance recommendations to meet required pasture production levels. If required pasture production levels are currently met or exceeded, no additional fertilizer is needed. A medium/high fertility level is the desired target.
6. **Balance forage.** Completion of a livestock and forage balance is required. Adjust livestock numbers, fertilizer rates, or purchased feed in order to meet livestock forage needs.
7. **Implement a rotational grazing plan according to the incentive chosen:**
 - A. **Minimum of five (5) paddocks or fields.** Develop a grazing system which plans for no more than 14 days of continuous grazing on similar production level paddocks or fields.

- B. **Minimum of eight (8) paddocks or fields.** Develop a grazing system which plans for no more than 7 days of continuous grazing on similar production level paddocks or fields.
8. **Control weeds** in the pasture by clipping, spraying, high density grazing, mixed species grazing and/or wiping as needed. Complete a pest management plan as a part of the conservation plan.
9. **Do not graze forages lower than the minimum grazing height.** Graze no more than 20 percent of the acreage to less than the minimum grazing height. Adjust stocking rate, management or inputs as needed to manage grazing heights.
- 2" for bermudagrass, ryegrass
 - 3" for cool season grasses (e.g. tall fescue, orchardgrass, cereal grains)
 - 6" for tall upright grasses (e.g. native grass, millet, sorghums)

Recordkeeping is needed in all agricultural operations; livestock production is no exception. Use of the "Grazing Land & Livestock Resource Inventory", "Tennessee Pasture Planner" or other appropriate guidebook system will be required as an aid in recordkeeping and presented annually. The guidebooks are available through the local SCD Office. There is also a record keeping sheet on this web site. See the sample record keeping sheet (Pasture Record for Prescribed Grazing Incentive) on this web site.

Minimum records required for each grazing rotation are:

- Field/Paddock Number
- Number of animals/pounds(average weight)
- Date beginning grazing
- Beginning grazing height
- Number of days grazed

10. **Payments** for prescribed grazing will be made each year at the end of the rotational grazing season. In Tennessee, the grazing season extends from April-October, thus cost-share payments should not be made until the end of the grazing system (i.e. the middle of September to the end of October). The Pasture Condition Score at the end of the first year needs to be greater than 35 points. Records of rotational grazing must be submitted with receipts and request for payment for all three years.